

DISCLAIMER

This electronic version of an SCC order is for informational purposes only and is not an official document of the Commission. An official copy may be obtained from the [Clerk of the Commission, Document Control Center](#).

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

AT RICHMOND, FEBRUARY 16, 2001

COMMONWEALTH OF VIRGINIA, ex rel.

STATE CORPORATION COMMISSION

CASE NO. PUC000304

Ex Parte: In the matter of
implementation of number
conservation measures granted
to Virginia by the Federal
Communications Commission in its
order released July 20, 2000

ORDER NAMING INTERIM POOLING ADMINISTRATOR
AND IMPLEMENTING NUMBER POOLING

On November 29, 1999, the State Corporation Commission ("Commission") petitioned the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC") for authority to implement certain number conservation measures, including thousand-block number pooling.

On July 20, 2000, the FCC delegated to the Commission authority to implement number conservation measures, including authority to institute thousand-block number pooling.¹ Thousand-block number pooling allows numbers to be allocated in blocks of 1,000 rather than 10,000 (as required by the Central Office Code Assignment Guidelines) by a pooling administrator that coordinates the allocation of numbers to a particular service provider with the Number Portability Administration Center.

¹ In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, CC Docket Nos. 99-200, 96-98, NSD File No. L-99-95, ¶ 49 ("FCC's Delegation Order").

Selection of Number Pooling Administrator

The FCC's Delegation Order requires that all state commissions delegated number pooling authority select a neutral entity to administer the number pooling trial until such time as the FCC designates the national pooling administrator.² The interim number pooling administrator will be responsible for organizing and implementing the pooling trial and will assume the ongoing duty of fulfilling new number requests from carriers. The Commission's selection of an interim number pooling administrator will likely be superceded by the FCC when the FCC selects the national pooling administrator.

On November 9, 2000, we issued an Order directing the Commission Staff to request proposals from vendors interested in serving as Virginia's interim number pooling administrator and to make a selection based on the proposals received. The Commission Staff received proposals from two firms, Telcordia Technologies ("Telcordia") and NeuStar, Inc. Based on the presentations and proposals submitted by these two firms, the Staff recommended that Telcordia serve as the interim number pooling administrator for Virginia.

² FCC's Delegation Order, ¶ 20.

Implementation in 804 area code

The FCC's Delegation Order grants the Commission the authority to implement thousand-block number pooling in the 804, 757, and 540 area codes. However, this grant of authority extends to any new area code implemented to relieve an existing area code in which pooling is taking place. Although the Commission was delegated authority to implement thousand-block number pooling in multiple Numbering Plan Areas ("NPAs") within the state, we must first fully implement thousand-block number pooling in a single Metropolitan Statistical Area ("MSA") and may not expand to another MSA until pooling has been fully implemented in the initial MSA and after allowing carriers sufficient time to undertake necessary steps to accommodate thousand-block number pooling. These steps may include, among others, modifying databases and upgrading switch software.³

In Virginia, the Central Office Code Utilization Survey report indicates that the 804 area code will run out of numbers around April 1, 2002. Since the shortage of available central office codes or NXX codes⁴ is most acute in this area code, we

³ *FCC's Delegation Order*, ¶ 49.

⁴ "Central office code" or "NXX code" refers to the second three digits of a ten-digit telephone number in the NPA-NXX-XXXX, when N represents any one of the numbers 2 through 9, and X represents any one of the numbers 0 through 9. See 47 C.F.R. § 52.7(c).

will first implement a thousand-block number pooling trial in the 804/434 NPA.⁵

June 15, 2001 Implementation Date

The Commission fully appreciates the extent of efforts required by carriers to establish a pooling trial. We believe an implementation date of June 15, 2001, to be practical and feasible. Number Portability Administration Center 3.0 software, which the Commission prefers over the current 1.4 software, is expected to be available by this implementation date. However, even if the 3.0 software is not available for use on June 15, 2001, carriers may be expected to use the 1.4 software to handle pooling, as has been accomplished in all other states currently running pooling trials.

The interim number pooling administrator should convene its First Implementation Meeting on March 7, 2001, to develop a work plan and implementation schedule with all Virginia NPA-NXX code holding carriers operating in the Commonwealth. Each such carrier will be required to implement number conservation measures and participate in thousand-block pooling when Local Number Portability ("LNP") capable.

⁵ In Case No. PUC990159, the Commission ordered a Geographic Split of the 804 area code. The western portion of the existing 804 area code will receive the new 434 area code. Permissive dialing is scheduled to begin in the 434 area code on June 1, 2001, with mandatory dialing to begin on January 15, 2002. Number pooling will be continued in both the 804 and 434 area codes in order to conserve numbering resources and extend the forecasted lives of both areas.

Block Reclamation

For thousand-block number pooling to be successful in conserving telephone numbers, it is necessary for carriers to return under-used thousand number blocks to the pooling administrator. This will ensure that unused telephone numbers will be used efficiently by reassignment to other carriers requiring numbering resources. In determining what constitutes under-used thousand blocks, the Commission will use the national standard established by the FCC of ten percent (10%) "contamination."⁶ In the Numbering Resource Optimization Order, the FCC found that "donation of thousand-blocks with up to a ten percent contamination threshold has the potential to add significant numbering resources in areas where thousands [sic]-block number pooling has been implemented."⁷ Therefore, the Commission finds that all LNP-capable telecommunications service providers not exempted by the FCC shall return to the interim pooling administrator all thousand number blocks in the 804/434 NPA where less than 100 telephone numbers of a particular thousand block of numbers has been previously assigned. Further, consistent with the FCC's *Numbering Resource*

⁶ In the Matter of Numbering Resource Optimization, CC Docket No. 99-200, FCC 00-104, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, released March 31, 2000, ¶ 191 ("*Numbering Resource Optimization Order*"). "Contamination" refers to the assignment of particular numbers contained in the thousand-block.

⁷ *Numbering Resource Optimization Order*, ¶ 191.

Optimization Order, carriers holding number blocks in other NPAs should improve fill ratios on under-utilized number blocks and not contaminate unused and under-utilized number blocks (or initiate "block protection") in preparation for number pooling in those NPAs.

Cost Allocation and Recovery

Because the Commission's cost allocation and cost recovery method does not need to be adopted prior to implementing the first number pooling trial, we intend to work with the industry as well as consumers to devise cost allocation and cost recovery mechanisms for thousand-block number pooling. Specific discussion on these issues can begin at the First Implementation Meeting. The Commission will finalize the result of these discussions by subsequent order.

Accordingly, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

(1) The Commission designates Telcordia Technologies as the interim number pooling administrator for Virginia.

(2) The Commission's Division of Communications will issue a letter requesting that the North American Pooling Portability Management, LLC ("NAPM, LLC"), enter into a contract with Telcordia consistent with its proposals. This contract shall be worded so as not to encumber or usurp Commission authority.

(3) Telcordia shall be responsible for entering into appropriate agreements with members of the telecommunications

industry and with NAPM, LLC, and for conducting all required meetings and pooling activities.

(4) Virginia's first interim thousand-block pooling trial will be implemented in the 804/434 NPA by Telcordia on June 15, 2001, as detailed in this Order.

(5) Telcordia shall convene a First Implementation Meeting on March 7, 2001, at 1:00 p.m. in the Commission's 3rd Floor Training Room, to develop a work plan and implementation schedule.

(6) Pursuant to the authority delegated to the Commission by the FCC and as set forth in this Order, all telecommunications service providers, when capable of Local Number Portability and not exempted by the FCC and who have been assigned central office codes in the 804/434 NPA, are hereby required to: (1) initiate block protection, as of the date of this Order, for one thousand blocks where number assignment is equal to or less than ten percent (10%); (2) donate under-used one thousand blocks to Virginia's interim pooling administrator; and (3) initiate the practice of sequential number assignment consistent with the FCC's directive in its March 31, 2000, *Numbering Resource Optimization Order*.⁸

⁸ *Numbering Resource Optimization Order*, ¶¶ 244-246.

(7) The Commission retains jurisdiction over this matter to issue such future orders and take such future actions as may be appropriate.